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Editor's Note



It's an old saying "An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing." This is my 5th year with CHINAR International (CI) and I challenge myself, to learn more every day and develop new skills. Working with CI has given me an opportunity to grow personally and professionally. I am extremely delighted to introduce myself as Information, Evaluation and Communication Lead of CHINAR International – a new position which I look forward to working with responsibility and dedication.

In the first two quarters of 2017, CI had tremendous progress in education and youth development. Scale-up surveys for Child Support program were conducted across the 5 districts—Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Kupwara and Doda. After thorough assessment and proper verification, a total of 51 children coming from 25 families were selected. Currently, 300 children and 132 families receive educational and livelihood support. Distribution events were held in each district to give

out educational supplies to existing and newly selected child beneficiaries. Special food kits for Ramadan were also distributed to the selected families ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. Furthermore, three new livelihood cases were also introduced in the first quarter.

In January, CI conducted a qualitative assessment study titled "Education and Unrest in Kashmir-A way forward" in collaboration with our consultant Jahangir Raina. The study was aimed at exploring ways and means to continue education during the times of unrest. Covering around 3000 respondents, the report sums up recommendations and suggestions given by government, resistance groups, civil society organizations and community leaders. The first version of the report was released in April for public consultation. Final report with comments from various stakeholders will be available upon completion.

CI organized a two-day business entrepreneurship workshop for college graduates at Islamia College for Science and Commerce, Srinagar in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). CI launched two more skill centers in Handwara and Shopian in the month of June, following the successful graduation of our first

batch of young women from Shopian. Preparations are underway for an international youth conference to be held in September in Srinagar in collaboration with TISS focused on "Youth Entrepreneurship in Conflict areas".

CI organized "Public Durbar for Education" for our adopted school at Chek Saidpora Shopian. Attended by over 300 participants, the event was aimed at creating strong link between community and administration at schools. In Kulgam, we are working on a comprehensive Integrated Development and Learning Plan in convergence with Health, ICDS and Education Departments. We are in the process of signing a MoU with the education department for scaling up from 5 to 50 schools.

This is a combined edition for the first two quarters of 2017 and covers all the activities in child support, education and youth development. I encourage you to read it and provide us your valuable feedback and comments at info@chinarinternational.org

Afifa Lone
Information, Evaluation & Communication
Lead,
CHINAR International



Scale up survey

In the first quarter of 2017, CI scaled up its child support program across all 5 districts—Srinagar, Kupwara, Shopian, Pulwama and Doda. Scale up survey was conducted to identify potential beneficiaries to be added in the program. Starting February, 37 families were surveyed in Srinagar out of which 16 children were selected for the program. Similarly, 50 families were surveyed across 8 villages in Handwara out of which 12 children entered the main program.



In March, a survey was conducted in selected villages of Shopian and Pulwama identifying a total of 25 children (Shopian: 14, Pulwama: 11). In the month of April, out of 50 families spread across 9 villages in Baderwah Tehsil (Doda), 16 children were included in the program.

With a total of 249 children from 107 fam-



ilies in 2016, our current tally is 300 children from 149 families.

Annual distribution event



CI conducts distribution event every year to give out educational supplies to the children in the child support program. The parents and guardians also participate in the event. Supplies given include school uniforms, school shoes, hygiene items, bags and stationery. In Srinagar, distribution was held on 28th February where 34 children (current beneficiaries) received supplies. In addition, monthly nutrition was also provided to selected families in the district.



In the month of March, distribution event was conducted in Shopian, Pulwama, and in Baderwah Tehsil of Doda district (Jammu). Educational supplies were distributed among 22 children.



Ramadan special kit distribution

During the auspicious month of Ramadan, CI distributed special food kits to 132 families in districts Handwara, Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama and Doda ahead of Eid-ul-fitr. These food kits comprised of sugar, flour, spices, salt, tea, pulses, etc. The aim of the distribution was to ensure that our beneficiaries celebrate Eid joyfully without facing any shortage of food.



Sheep vaccination event

On 5th April, CI organized medical check-up for sheep belonging to our adopted families. This year the flock of 51 sheep assembled in Zampathri wherein the overall check-up of the livestock, vaccination, branding and tagging took place. Bashir Ahmed Lone - Assistant Stock Man at Animal Husbandry Department made sure all sheep were given neuozyme, sheep pox vaccine and TNT vaccine.



Community mobilization event at Baderwah



On May 2nd, CI organized a community mobilization event in Baderwah Tehsil of Doda district (Jammu Division). The event was organized with the main objective to engage community to identify priorities, resources, needs and solutions. The main focus was to sensitize the community about the issues regarding the children and their education.



Nearly 130 participants including Sarpanch, panchs, religious leaders, local teachers and VEC members attended the event. Different speakers highlighted some major issues like importance of education, punctuality, hygiene and communal harmony. Students also performed cultural programs with education as the

theme. CI team highlighted the importance of cleanliness, hygiene and role of parents in it. All the speakers applauded CHINAR International for their contribution towards delivering quality education.

Two skill development centers launched

With the successful graduation of girls from our first skill centre in Shopian, we



were inspired and encouraged to launch more centers this year.

After research and contemplation, we started two more skill centers; in Tehsil Handwara and in District Shopian. The center in Handwara started in February for a group of 40 girls, and in Shopian the



center was started for a group of 12 girls in the month of March.

Along with youth development, we also strive for women empowerment and financial independence for women. These skill centers were made to realize our ongoing missions. We hope to create more skill centers in the future to ensure that the girls of the valley learn skills and become self-employed.

Three new livelihood cases introduced

Our ongoing livelihood cases have been a tremendous help to the parents of the children who are under our child support program.

CI introduced three more livelihood cases



this quarter by providing them with the following: one family received a sewing machine, another family received a Shikara boat, and the third family received a welding machine. This way CI ensures that the parents of children under the child-support program are self-reliant and support their child's education in future.

CHINAR International has initiated the process of signing an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the education department. The purpose of this MoU is to develop strong working relationship with the department to work on our common mission of mainstreaming children of disadvantaged groups including children with special needs and provide quality education in the schools of the state. Currently, we are working in 5 government schools spread across 5 districts and plan to scale up from 5 to 50 schools soon. Looking at the progress achieved in the schools, government has already approved inclusion of more schools in our quality education program.



Education and Unrest in Kashmir: A Way Forward

CHINAR International conducted a qualitative assessment study- "Education and unrest in Kashmir-A way forward" in collaboration with one of its local consultants -Jahangir Raina. The main aim of the study was to assess the overall impact of conflict on education in all districts of Kashmir. The data and information acquired through this study was used to explore ways and means to continue education during unrest. The objectives of the study were two-fold: a) examine the impact of unrest on education in Kashmir, its dynamics, and (2) the need for advocacy to rescue education as much as possible from the negative impact of unrest. The methodology involved assessment of over 2000 students and 500 parents using self-devised questionnaire tool both for parents and students. Qualitative input was taken from teachers, administration, stone pelters and community heads through Focused Group Discussions held with the members of the civil society, Directorate of School Education, members of media, faculty and researchers at Kashmir University. Three teams of surveyors were commissioned for 10 districts divided into three zones: South zone, central and north. South zone comprises of the four districts namely Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam. The central zone includes the districts of Srinagar, Budgam, and Ganderbal. The North Zone includes Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts. Major findings of the study include:

Winter Tutorial Program of DSEK: 23%

respondents in our survey sample attended the program and found it useful.



E-Learning Channel: 78% said the channel would be useful. Most (42%) pointed Internet as preferred media, with TV being the second most preferred media (23% respondents).

Community Schools: 15% students reported that there was a community school functioning in their locality during unrest. Problems facing education system: 23% students believe there is 'No alternative means to continue education during unrest'.



Responsibility of impact on education: Over 60 percent respondents said that their education was impacted the most due to restrictions by security forces (including curfews).

Student politics: Students are evenly divided between the pros and cons of allowing student politics in the valley. Among the interventions that might bring positivity among students (as per the survey) are 'events and competitions', 'sports', and 'student forums'.

Based on findings of the study and the

qualitative inputs taken from various stakeholders, suggested remedies include :

- A) substitutes to formal education during times of unrest,
- B) addressing student expectations from education,
- C) allowing student politics,
- D) advocacy with resistance leadership and the state, and
- E) Creating bond with community leaders.



During our research, we gained deeper understanding of the complexity of the problem. Hence, the research report was initially released for public consultation on April 20, 2017 at Institute of Management and Public Administration, Srinagar. The event was hosted by Irfan Shahmiri-Global Executive Director along with consultant Jahangir Raina and was attended by reporters from local, national and international media. At the event, major findings and recommendations were discussed which was followed by Q&A session.

Presently, we are in the process of consolidating the feedback and comments already collected through formal and informal meetings with stakeholders. Selected inputs and suggestions will be incorporated in the final report to be published soon.



Two-day business entrepreneurship workshop for college graduates

A two-day business start-up entrepreneurship workshop for college graduates was held at Islamia College of Science and Commerce on 22nd and 23rd February 2017, in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Around 25 students (both alumni and current students) from Islamia college of Science and Commerce and Kothibagh Higher Secondary school attended the workshop.



Trainers included Dr Satyajit Majumdar and Mr. Raviraj who are faculty members of Department of social entrepreneurship at TISS. The workshop is a part of CIBIC (CI Business Incubation Centre) program which was recently launched in Kashmir. So far, three ventures have received funding under this program. CIBIC will act as a business support process that accelerates the successful development of start-up and fielding companies by providing entrepreneurship with an array of targeted resources and services.



Public durbar for education

CHINAR International organized a "Public durbar for education for one of its adopted schools in Chek Saidpora, Shopian. The durbar was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC)-Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Qadri accompanied by Chief Education Officer Shopian and zonal officers.



The main aim of the event was to develop sustainable relationship between school administration and community. The event was attended by over 300 participants including students, local teachers, parents, community heads, zonal officers, etc. District Development Commissioner of Shopian was chief guest at the event. The event was further enhanced by student performances including skits, group songs, and speeches highlighting the importance of education.



Kulgam Integrated Development and Learning plan

In the month of June, CHINAR International laid foundations for comprehensive

interventions in District Kulgam. This process was initiated by meeting with District Development Commissioner, Kulgam to devise a comprehensive Integrated Development and Learning Plan in convergence with Health, ICDS and Education Departments. During the meeting, team shared the progress made in adopted schools and discussed plan for scale up to 10 schools in the Kulgam district.



Established in 1910, Devki Arya Putri Pathshalla Girls High School is a 107 year old school of the valley working hard on the motto of providing education to the poor.

CHINAR International has come forward to join hands



with us for the noble cause by providing free books to our students. I am highly grateful to the organization as it's not easy in today's world to carry on with the righteous work they have taken up. We have been associated with CHINAR from last one year and it has been benevolent enough to provide help to our students who are in need. All my best wishes with the organization. Hope it keeps on doing the good work in future.

**Mrs. Yusra Mushtaq,
Principal, DAPP School**



Coordination and networking

CHINAR International recognizes the importance of building connections and strengthening coordination with other organizations. Networking prevents duplication of efforts and allows organizations to work together towards shared goal by coordinating strategies and pooling resources. As an organization, we keep coordinating with other NGOs to explore and identify synergies in areas of intervention. In the month of March, we visited multiple organizations working in the field of education and youth development. Global Executive Director-Irfan Shahmiri along with Director-Dr Nandita Mondal and Education Lead-Afifa Lone met with following organizations in Delhi:

- PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry .
- Simple Education Foundation
- Bharti Heavy Electronics Limited
- Pratham



Besides, visiting team also met with Chairman, Education Technology and Management Academy (ETMA) to discuss and review the strategic plan for education. Team presented the consolidated comments and feedback to be incorporated in the education plan developed by ETMA.

Audit Summary 2016-17

CHINAR International registered under section 25 of the companies Act is bound to follow all the laws of companies Act 1956. As per the law all companies are required to have audited financial statements and must have their financial statements independently reviewed by an independent Auditor.

In June 2017 we had an external Audit which was conducted by NSB and Associates- a Delhi based chartered accountant firm, for the financial year 2016-2017 who examined Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2017 and income and expenditure Account.

The Gross revenue of the company during the year was INR 2.45 Lac as against INR 8.13 Lac in the previous year. Also, total expenditures during the year was INR 105.69 Lac as against INR 127.69 in the previous year which indicates the Excess of expenditure over income for the period as INR 103.24 Lac as against INR 119.52 Lac in the previous year.

Majority of the amount has been spent on our main programs that is, child support (43.62%), quality education (14.85%), youth development (6%) and crisis relief with 6.71%, All the financial affairs at CHINAR International are being managed in a fair and transparent manner resulting in error free audit since last 3 years.

An inspiring story

Bashir Ahmad Shamsher—51-year-old man has



an inspiring story. Shamsher- a handicapped courageous person was living in a one roomed derelict house at Qamarwari, Srinagar with his wife and three children, including two daughters and a son. Shamsher lost his left hand when he met an accident at a very young age. As a street vendor, he used to sell candles and other items earning a maximum amount of Rs 100 per day. It was not possible for him to make both ends meet with this meager income and educating his children was a farfetched dream. During September 2014 floods, CI visited the family during assessment of flood victims. Providing short term relief in the form of food kits, clothes and other necessities was not the ultimate solution as the floods had destroyed his house and all his belongings were lost. After thorough assessment and verification process, CHINAR International selected the family for its Child support program where he receives both livelihood and educational support. With his determination and CI's support, a small portion of his house was converted into a provisional store which helped him attain a sustainable livelihood. Shamsher, happy with his successful shop narrates **"I am grateful to CI for making me self-sustained and self-reliant"**



Picture Gallery



Dilshada from Zampathri with her two sheep given as livelihood support



A group of students while attending community mobilization event at Shopian



Smiling children in Warwan Valley



Women Self Help Group at Dal, Srinagar



CHINAR team interacts with a group of girls at Skill Development center, Handwara



Review of final draft of education and unrest study



Education Lead-Sadashiv interacts with children at Shopian School



Teacher speaking during Public Durbar for Education held at Shopian

CHINAR International welcomes three new recruits

Members of Directorial Board of CHINAR International USA including Mrs. Zeba Durrani and Mr. Amjad Khan visited our Srinagar Office and met with the project team here. The team had a wonderful interaction with the Board and shared their experiences and plans going forward. On the same day, the Board also formally welcomed its new recruits –Sadashiv, Afrah and Tariq into the CHINAR family.



Tariq holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Sciences and Masters Degree in Human Resource Management from Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Before CI, he was working as HR Business Partner at Telco Car Care. He also has interned in the HR space with leading MNCs and has handled many projects. Tariq is passionate about traveling and takes interests in knowing about different cultures, their histories and practices. He has passion for entrepreneurship and youth development. He envisions minimizing unemployment from the state of J&K and beyond and hence joined CI to make his vision a reality.



Sadashiv has done his Bachelors in Engineering and holds a Masters in Public Administration (IGNOU, Delhi) and a Masters in Development Practice (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai). Originally from Kerala, he has earlier worked as a consultant at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu for 3 years. He was also a Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellow under the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India for 3 years where he worked extensively in the education sphere with the government and other educational organizations in Kashmir.



Afrah is engineer by training and teacher by choice. She joined Teach For India Fellowship in 2015 as she strongly believes destiny can be changed by education. She believes that awareness in parents and stakeholders is important for holistic development of community. She is currently working as a Project Coordinator at CHINAR International. She likes to connect to diverse people and learn from them.

CHINAR International (CI) is a child welfare and community development non-profit organization working in two areas: quality education for children and empowerment of marginal communities. However, when the floods of September 2014 hit the Valley, CHINAR International jumped into disaster relief activities as well.

Mission Statement:

“Empowerment of vulnerable children and marginalized youth in conflict areas through quality education and socioeconomic

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